WAC 197-11-960 Environmental checklist.

ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

Purpose of checklist:

The State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA), chapter 43.21C RCW, requires all governmental agencies to consider the environmental impacts of a proposal before making decisions. An environmental impact statement (EIS) must be prepared for all proposals with probable significant adverse impacts on the quality of the environment. The purpose of this checklist is to provide information to help you and the agency identify impacts from your proposal (and to reduce or avoid impacts from the proposal, if it can be done) and to help the agency decide whether an EIS is required.

Instructions for applicants:

This environmental checklist asks you to describe some basic information about your proposal. Governmental agencies use this checklist to determine whether the environmental impacts of your proposal are significant, requiring preparation of an EIS. Answer the questions briefly, with the most precise information known, or give the best description you can.

You must answer each question accurately and carefully, to the best of your knowledge. In most cases, you should be able to answer the questions from your own observations or project plans without the need to hire experts. If you really do not know the answer, or if a question does not apply to your proposal, write "do not know" or "does not apply." Complete answers to the questions now may avoid unnecessary delays later.

Some questions ask about governmental regulations, such as zoning, shoreline, and landmark designations. Answer these questions if you can. If you have problems, the governmental agencies can assist you.

The checklist questions apply to all parts of your proposal, even if you plan to do them over a period of time or on different parcels of land. Attach any additional information that will help describe your proposal or its environmental effects. The agency to which you submit this checklist may ask you to explain your answers or provide additional information reasonably related to determining if there may be significant adverse impact.

Use of checklist for nonproject proposals:

Complete this checklist for nonproject proposals, even though questions may be answered "does not apply." IN ADDITION, complete the SUPPLEMENTAL SHEET FOR NONPROJECT ACTIONS (part D).

For nonproject actions, the references in the checklist to the words "project," "applicant," and "property or site" should be read as "proposal," "proposer," and "affected geographic area," respectively.

A. BACKGROUND

1. Name of proposed project, if applicable: Marine Shoreline Design Guidelines (MSDG)

2. Name of applicant: Washington Dept. of Fish and Wildlife

3. Address and phone number of applicant and contact person: Robert Barnard, 360-466-4345, PO Box 1100, LaConner , WA, 98257

4. Date checklist prepared: 10/23/13

5. Agency requesting checklist: Dept. of Fish and Wildlife

6. Proposed timing or schedule (including phasing, if applicable): Proposed publication date 1/17/2014

7. Do you have any plans for future additions, expansion, or further activity related to or connected with this proposal? If yes, explain.
No.

8. List any environmental information you know about that has been prepared, or will be prepared, directly related to this proposal.

As part of the development of these guidelines, a case study report was prepared and appears as Appendix A in the document and is available as a separate file.

9. Do you know whether applications are pending for governmental approvals of other proposals directly affecting the property covered by your proposal? If yes, explain.

This is a non-project document produced through the Aquatic Habitat Guidelines program, which is a consortium of Washington State agencies (Ecology, Fish and Wildlife, Transportation, Natural Resources, Recreation Conservation Office, and the Puget Sound Partnership) . By approving this document their agencies implicitly support it.

10. List any government approvals or permits that will be needed for your proposal, if known.

None, this is a non-project application.

11. Give brief, complete description of your proposal, including the proposed uses and the size of the project and site. There are several questions later in this checklist that ask you to describe certain aspects of your proposal. You do not need to repeat those answers on this page. (Lead agencies may modify this form to include additional specific information on project description.)

MSDG is a guidance document for the assessment and design of marine shoreline protections measures for Puget Sound. Shoreline armoring – such as bulkheads and seawalls – has become a significant environmental issue on Puget Sound. Armoring influences beaches on the shoreline, alters coastal ecology, and reduces the resilience of the coast to rising sea level. "Protecting Nearshore Habitat and Functions in Puget Sound" (EnviroVision et al. 2007), states that planners should enforce or encourage the use of alternative design methods in nearshore development projects to avoid and minimize environmental impacts. Currently, there is no comprehensive document to provide a technical foundation for the design of alternatives to rock and concrete bulkheads and the myriad of other projects, including bulkhead removal and coastal restoration, which are proposed for our shores. This document will provide engineering design concepts for soft and hard shore protection projects for use throughout Puget Sound. This document does not cover the restoration of nearshore and estuarine habitats.

12. Location of the proposal. Give sufficient information for a person to understand the precise location of your proposed project, including a street address, if any, and section, township, and range, if known. If a proposal would occur over a range of area, provide the range or boundaries of the site(s). Provide a legal description, site plan, vicinity map, and topographic map, if reasonably available. While you should submit any plans required by the agency, you are not required to duplicate maps or detailed plans submitted with any permit applications related to this checklist.

MSDG can be applied to any shoreline on Puget Sound.

TO BE COMPLETED BY APPLICANT

EVALUATION FOR AGENCY USE ONLY

B. ENVIRONMENTAL ELEMENTS

1. **Earth**

a. General description of the site (circle one): Flat, rolling, hilly, steep slopes, mountainous, other . . . . . .

All shore forms on Puget Sound.

b. What is the steepest slope on the site (approximate percent slope)?

Some bluffs can be almost vertical.

c. What general types of soils are found on the site (for example, clay, sand, gravel, peat, muck)? If you know the classification of agricultural soils, specify them and note any prime farmland.

Beaches can range from muck to cobble/boulder.

d. Are there surface indications or history of unstable soils in the immediate vicinity? If so, describe.

Some sites are very unstable.

e. Describe the purpose, type, and approximate quantities of any filling or grading proposed. Indicate source of fill.

Most techniques for managing shore erosion involve importing some type of fill, from materials that closely match existing sediments to the use of quarry rock and concrete. The type of material is determined by the techniques and by its risks, benefits and impacts.

f. Could erosion occur as a result of clearing, construction, or use? If so, generally describe.

Erosion is generally prevented by these techniques, but one, Bulkhead Removal, can increase erosion with the intent to restore natural shore processes at the site.

g. About what percent of the site will be covered with impervious surfaces after project construction (for example, asphalt or buildings)?

Generally, these techniques do not increase impervious surface.

h. Proposed measures to reduce or control erosion, or other impacts to the earth, if any:

Most of these techniques control erosion.

2. Air

a. What types of emissions to the air would result from the proposal (i.e., dust, automobile, odors, industrial wood smoke) during construction and when the project is completed? If any, generally describe and give approximate quantities if known.

These techniques involve construction activities which will have short term impacts such as noise, exhaust, dust and so on.

b. Are there any off-site sources of emissions or odor that may affect your proposal? If so, generally describe.

Generally, no.

c. Proposed measures to reduce or control emissions or other impacts to air, if any:

Emissions are not discussed in these guidelines.

3. **Water**

a. Surface:

1) Is there any surface water body on or in the immediate vicinity of the site (including year-round and seasonal streams, saltwater, lakes, ponds, wetlands)? If yes, describe type and provide names. If appropriate, state what stream or river it flows into.

All of the sites where these guidelines would be applied will be adjacent to Puget Sound.

2) Will the project require any work over, in, or adjacent to (within 200 feet) the described waters? If yes, please describe and attach available plans.

Probably all of the sites where these guidelines would be applied will be within 200 feet of Puget Sound.

3) Estimate the amount of fill and dredge material that would be placed in or removed from surface water or wetlands and indicate the area of the site that would be affected. Indicate the source of fill material.

Quantities will be entirely dependent on the technique and the application.

4) Will the proposal require surface water withdrawals or diversions? Give general description, purpose, and approximate quantities if known.

Generally, there will be no withdrawals or diversions.

5) Does the proposal lie within a 100-year floodplain? If so, note location on the site plan.

Nearly all the sites where these guidelines will be applied will be within the 100-year floodplain insofar as that term can be applied to marine waters.

6) Does the proposal involve any discharges of waste materials to surface waters? If so, describe the type of waste and anticipated volume of discharge.

Generally, there are no direct discharges to surface water. There may be temporary increases in turbidity due to construction activities.

b. Ground:

1) Will ground water be withdrawn, or will water be discharged to ground water? Give general description, purpose, and approximate quantities if known.

Generally, no.

2) Describe waste material that will be discharged into the ground from septic tanks or other sources, if any (for example: Domestic sewage; industrial, containing the following chemicals. . . ; agricultural; etc.). Describe the general size of the system, the number of such systems, the number of houses to be served (if applicable), or the number of animals or humans the system(s) are expected to serve.

No discharges.

c. Water runoff (including stormwater):

1) Describe the source of runoff (including storm water) and method of collection and disposal, if any (include quantities, if known). Where will this water flow? Will this water flow into other waters? If so, describe.

One technique in MSDG involves management of surface water to decrease the threat to mass wasting on marine bluffs.

2) Could waste materials enter ground or surface waters? If so, generally describe.

Generally, no.

d. Proposed measures to reduce or control surface, ground, and runoff water impacts, if any:

4. **Plants**

a. Check or circle types of vegetation found on the site:

Techniques in these guidelines recommend the use of native plants to improve riparian conditions on Puget Sound.

———— deciduous tree: alder, maple, aspen, other

———— evergreen tree: fir, cedar, pine, other

———— shrubs

———— grass

———— pasture

———— crop or grain

———— wet soil plants: cattail, buttercup, bullrush, skunk cabbage, other

———— water plants: water lily, eelgrass, milfoil, other

———— other types of vegetation

b. What kind and amount of vegetation will be removed or altered?

The Revegetation Technique recommends the use of native plants to reduce erosion and improve bank stability.

c. List threatened or endangered species known to be on or near the site.

There may be some endangered species on sites on Puget Sound, although their status and protection are not discussed in these guidelines.

d. Proposed landscaping, use of native plants, or other measures to preserve or enhance vegetation on the site, if any:

The Revegetation Technique recommends the use of native plants to reduce erosion and improve bank stability.

5. **Animals**

a. Circle any birds and animals which have been observed on or near the site or are known to be on or near the site:

Many of these animals appear on the beaches of Puget Sound, where these guidelines will be applied.

birds: hawk, heron, eagle, songbirds, other:
mammals: deer, bear, elk, beaver, other:
fish: bass, salmon, trout, herring, shellfish, other:

b. List any threatened or endangered species known to be on or near the site.

Depends on the specific site.

c. Is the site part of a migration route? If so, explain.

Yes, most of the sites where these guidelines apply are along the nearshore migration corridor.

d. Proposed measures to preserve or enhance wildlife, if any:

The main purpose of MSDG is to provide an engineering framework for the assessment and design of shore protection measures that use native materials and natural process to minimize the impacts to fish and wildlife resources.

6. **Energy and natural resources**

a. What kinds of energy (electric, natural gas, oil, wood stove, solar) will be used to meet the completed project's energy needs? Describe whether it will be used for heating, manufacturing, etc.

After construction there are no energy needs at these sites.

b. Would your project affect the potential use of solar energy by adjacent properties? If so, generally describe.

No.

c. What kinds of energy conservation features are included in the plans of this proposal? List other proposed measures to reduce or control energy impacts, if any:

None.

7. **Environmental health**

a. Are there any environmental health hazards, including exposure to toxic chemicals, risk of fire and explosion, spill, or hazardous waste, that could occur as a result of this proposal? If so, describe.

There is potential for pollution discharge as part of the construction process. Best management practices administered by other agencies are assumed to prevent them.

1) Describe special emergency services that might be required.

Emergency services would be required by the local or state laws and codes.

2) Proposed measures to reduce or control environmental health hazards, if any:

Best management practices administered by other agencies are assumed to prevent environmental health hazards.

b. **Noise**

1) What types of noise exist in the area which may affect your project (for example: traffic, equipment, operation, other)?

Noise will not affect these projects.

2) What types and levels of noise would be created by or associated with the project on a short-term or a long-term basis (for example: traffic, construction, operation, other)? Indicate what hours noise would come from the site.

Short term construction noises.

3) Proposed measures to reduce or control noise impacts, if any:

Best management practices administered by other agencies are assumed to control noise.

8. **Land and shoreline use**

a. What is the current use of the site and adjacent properties?

All uses common on Puget Sound shores will be at these sites.

b. Has the site been used for agriculture? If so, describe.

Some sites will have been used for agriculture.

c. Describe any structures on the site.

All types of structures will occur, homes, landscaping, commercial and industrial buildings.

d. Will any structures be demolished? If so, what?

Some structures may be demolished.

e. What is the current zoning classification of the site?

All shore classifications on Puget Sound.

f. What is the current comprehensive plan designation of the site?

Shorelines.

g. If applicable, what is the current shoreline master program designation of the site?

Depends on jurisdiction and site characteristics.

h. Has any part of the site been classified as an "environmentally sensitive" area? If so, specify.

Some sites may be environmentally sensitive.

i. Approximately how many people would reside or work in the completed project?

Unknown.

j. Approximately how many people would the completed project displace?

Unknown

k. Proposed measures to avoid or reduce displacement impacts, if any:

None. Land use and occupancy are determined by local jurisdictions.

l. Proposed measures to ensure the proposal is compatible with existing and projected land uses and plans, if any:

Land use is determined by the local jurisdiction.

9. **Housing**

a. Approximately how many units would be provided, if any? Indicate whether high, middle, or low-income housing.

Housing matters would be determined by the local planning department.

b. Approximately how many units, if any, would be eliminated? Indicate whether high, middle, or low-income housing.

Housing matters would be determined by the local planning department.

c. Proposed measures to reduce or control housing impacts, if any:

Housing matters would be determined by the local planning department.

10. **Aesthetics**

a. What is the tallest height of any proposed structure(s), not including antennas; what is the principal exterior building material(s) proposed?

Aesthetics would be entirely determined by the characteristics of the specific project and are outside the scope of this document.

b. What views in the immediate vicinity would be altered or obstructed?

Aesthetics would be entirely determined by the characteristics of the specific project and are outside the scope of this document.

c. Proposed measures to reduce or control aesthetic impacts, if any:

Aesthetics would be entirely determined by the characteristics of the specific project and are outside the scope of this document.

11. **Light and glare**

a. What type of light or glare will the proposal produce? What time of day would it mainly occur?

Light and glare issues would be entirely determined by the characteristics of the specific project and are outside the scope of this document.

b. Could light or glare from the finished project be a safety hazard or interfere with views?

Light and glare issues would be entirely determined by the characteristics of the specific project and are outside the scope of this document.

c. What existing off-site sources of light or glare may affect your proposal?

Light and glare issues would be entirely determined by the characteristics of the specific project and are outside the scope of this document.

d. Proposed measures to reduce or control light and glare impacts, if any:

Light and glare issues would be entirely determined by the characteristics of the specific project and are outside the scope of this document.

12. **Recreation**

a. What designated and informal recreational opportunities are in the immediate vicinity?

Depends on the specific project.

b. Would the proposed project displace any existing recreational uses? If so, describe.

Depends on the specific project.

c. Proposed measures to reduce or control impacts on recreation, including recreation opportunities to be provided by the project or applicant, if any:

Several techniques increase the recreational opportunities on shores.

13. **Historic and cultural preservation**

a. Are there any places or objects listed on, or proposed for, national, state, or local preservation registers known to be on or next to the site? If so, generally describe.

There are sites along Puget Sound shores that have historic places or objects.

b. Generally describe any landmarks or evidence of historic, archaeological, scientific, or cultural importance known to be on or next to the site.

There are sites along Puget Sound shores that have historic places or objects.

c. Proposed measures to reduce or control impacts, if any:

Measures to control or reduce impacts to these sites are outside the scope of these guidelines.

14. **Transportation**

a. Identify public streets and highways serving the site, and describe proposed access to the existing street system. Show on site plans, if any.

Generally, transportation issues would be addressed by local jurisdictions.

b. Is site currently served by public transit? If not, what is the approximate distance to the nearest transit stop?

Generally, transportation issues would be addressed by local jurisdictions.

c. How many parking spaces would the completed project have? How many would the project eliminate?

Generally, transportation issues would be addressed by local jurisdictions.

d. Will the proposal require any new roads or streets, or improvements to existing roads or streets, not including driveways? If so, generally describe (indicate whether public or private).

Generally, transportation issues would be addressed by local jurisdictions.

e. Will the project use (or occur in the immediate vicinity of) water, rail, or air transportation? If so, generally describe.

Generally, transportation issues would be addressed by local jurisdictions.

f. How many vehicular trips per day would be generated by the completed project? If known, indicate when peak volumes would occur.

Generally, transportation issues would be addressed by local jurisdictions.

g. Proposed measures to reduce or control transportation impacts, if any:

Generally, transportation issues would be addressed by local jurisdictions.

15. **Public services**

a. Would the project result in an increased need for public services (for example: fire protection, police protection, health care, schools, other)? If so, generally describe.

Shoreline protection measures should not affect the need for public services.

b. Proposed measures to reduce or control direct impacts on public services, if any.

Shoreline protection measures should not affect the need for public services

16. **Utilities**

a. Circle utilities currently available at the site: electricity, natural gas, water, refuse service, telephone, sanitary sewer, septic system, other.

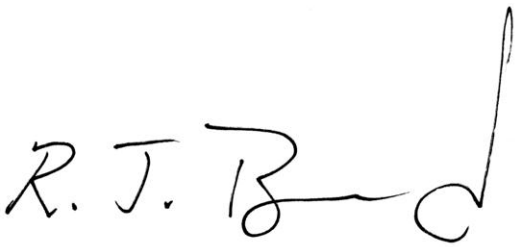
None

b. Describe the utilities that are proposed for the project, the utility providing the service, and the general construction activities on the site or in the immediate vicinity which might be needed.

None

C. SIGNATURE

The above answers are true and complete to the best of my knowledge. I understand that the lead agency is relying on them to make its decision.



Signature:

Date Submitted: October 31, 2013

TO BE COMPLETED BY APPLICANT

EVALUATION FOR AGENCY USE ONLY

D. SUPPLEMENTAL SHEET FOR NONPROJECT ACTIONS

(do not use this sheet for project actions)

Because these questions are very general, it may be helpful to read them in conjunction with the list of the elements of the environment.

When answering these questions, be aware of the extent the proposal, or the types of activities likely to result from the proposal, would affect the item at a greater intensity or at a faster rate than if the proposal were not implemented. Respond briefly and in general terms.

1. How would the proposal be likely to increase discharge to water; emissions to air; production, storage, or release of toxic or hazardous substances; or production of noise?

Shore protection measures, in themselves, do not create discharges or emissions. The construction of these measures can result in increased sediment delivery, construction equipment exhaust, the potential spill of fuel or hydraulic fluid, and the production of noise.

Proposed measures to avoid or reduce such increases are:

These are temporary impacts, and though the use of best management practices, they can be minimized. The permitting process for the construction of these projects usually addresses construction impacts and mitigates for unavoidable effects.

2. How would the proposal be likely to affect plants, animals, fish, or marine life?

Shore protection, by its very nature, prevents the natural process of erosion on the marine shore and thereby affects the organisms that live and migrate through there.

Proposed measures to protect or conserve plants, animals, fish, or marine life are:

The main purpose of MSDG is to provide an engineering framework for the assessment and design of shore protection measures that use native materials and natural process to minimize the impacts to fish and wildlife resources.

3. How would the proposal be likely to deplete energy or natural resources?

If "natural resources" are broadly defined, then any activity that creates something will deplete them. Shore protection measures can use gravel, large wood, and other naturally occurring materials, moving from them from where they are found to the location of the eroding bank, impacting the source site but benefitting the destination.

Proposed measures to protect or conserve energy and natural resources are:

MSDG recommends that shore protection be done in a way that works with natural processes, so the final project is more likely to function longer and with less maintenance than traditionally designed rock or concrete bulkheads. If natural resources include the plants and animals that use the nearshore to live and migrate, then the MSDG will tend to guide designers to avoid or minimize impacts to these organisms.

4. How would the proposal be likely to use or affect environmentally sensitive areas or areas designated (or eligible or under study) for governmental protection; such as parks,

wilderness, wild and scenic rivers, threatened or endangered species habitat, historic or cultural sites, wetlands, floodplains, or prime farmlands?

The functions and processes that support sensitive areas are recognized in MSDG as major factors in the design of appropriate shore protection. Parks are very likely to use the soft techniques featured in MSDG since they create good recreational opportunities and ease of access for children and older adults. Restored shore processes benefit endangered species and their habitat. Wetlands and native riparian vegetation enhancement are an important part of soft techniques.

Proposed measures to protect such resources or to avoid or reduce impacts are:

The guidelines use an alternative analysis process that helps the designer select a technique which minimizes impacts. MSDG is the first document to fully develop these techniques.

5. How would the proposal be likely to affect land and shoreline use, including whether it would allow or encourage land or shoreline uses incompatible with existing plans?

Land use is determined by local jurisdictions. MSDG can help

Proposed measures to avoid or reduce shoreline and land use impacts are:

This is the very purpose of the guidelines – reduce the impact of shore protection measures on natural nearshore processes and fish and wildlife habitat.

6. How would the proposal be likely to increase demands on transportation or public services and utilities?

MSDG is not likely to increase transportation and service demands.

Proposed measures to reduce or respond to such demand(s) are:

7. Identify, if possible, whether the proposal may conflict with local, state, or federal laws or requirements for the protection of the environment.

MSDG has been specifically written help the shore protection designer comply with laws that protect the environment.